

REMARKS

Examiner Snow is thanked for allowing claims 37-48 and indicating the allowability of claim 50. As noted above, claim 50 is being amended into independent form, without any narrowing, and its allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 49 and 51 were rejected as allegedly anticipated by the Haag reference (US 5,976,141). Applicants do not concede this ground for rejection, but in order to move this application to full allowance and issue, claim 49 has been cancelled without prejudice to reconsideration in this or a continuing application, and claim 51 has been amended to depend from allowable independent claim 50.

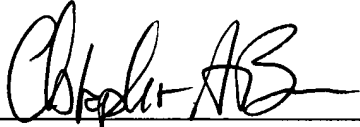
In addition, new claims 52-66 are being added, which depend from one of independent claims 37 and 50. Each of the new claims is fully supported by the specification and drawings. Claim 52 is supported by Figures 5a and 5b and paragraphs 0045-0046, among other disclosure. Claim 53 includes language similar to that found in allowed claim 37, and is supported by Figures 2-4e and associated text, among other disclosure. Claims 54 and 55 are supported by Figures 2, 3 and 7 and associated text, among other disclosure. Claims 56-58 are supported by Figures 2 and 3 and associated text, among other disclosure. Claims 59-62 are supported by Figures 5a and 5b and paragraphs 0045-0046, among other disclosure. Claim 63 is supported by Figures 2 and 3 and associated text, among other disclosure. Claim 64 includes language similar to that found in allowable claim 50, and is supported by Figures 5a and 5b and paragraphs 0045-0046, among other disclosure. Claims 65 and 66 are supported by Figures 2-3 and 10a-10d and associated text, among other disclosure. These dependent claims do not present any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. No new matter has been added.

Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

A supplemental information disclosure statement also accompanies this response. As noted in the Response to Final Office Action filed on August 14, 2006, it is believed that the references listed in it are properly before the Examiner, but to date the undersigned has not received an acknowledgement that they have been considered. Accordingly, out of an abundance of caution, the references are being resubmitted, and their consideration is requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above remarks and amendments is respectfully requested. Should it be determined that any further action is necessary to place this application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Christopher A. Brown, Reg. No. 41,642
Woodard, Emhardt, Moriarty,
McNett & Henry LLP
111 Monument Circle, Suite 3700
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-5137
(317) 634-3456

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